

Series: Conversations with an Atheist

Theme: Religious Wars and Violence

Scripture: Matthew 26:51-54

Date: January 10, 2010

- † *There is probably nothing more disheartening than the examples throughout history of people using _____ in the name of God.*
- *Christian history alone gives us numerous examples of that:*
 - *The Christian Crusades from 1100-1300 A.D.*
 - *Religious Wars of Europe in the 15th and 16th centuries.*
 - *The war between the Protestant and Catholics in Ireland of the 20th century.*
 - *The abortion clinic bombings of today.*
- † *Two possible _____ for all this:*
- *The need for control.*
 - *When you boil most acts of religious violence down there is some kind of _____ or _____ agenda behind it.*
 - *The belief that God needs _____ to defend Him!*
- † *Matthew 26:51-53*
- *[51] With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. [52] "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. [53] Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?*
- † *Jesus neither taught nor believed that violence was the solution to anything.*
- *On the contrary, he taught very clearly that _____ is the Answer!*